

CLAIM SUMMARY DOCUMENT:

Claims 1-10 were canceled.

11. A method for driving a vertical mixer with at least one rotatable mixing tool provided in a housing, with at least one inlet for a product to be mixed, with at least one outlet and with at least one drive, comprising:

continuously completely filling the vertical mixer in an operating state, a shear field being built-up in the product by the mixing tool; and

establishing continuous product flow from the inlet of the product to be mixed as far as the outlet of the product to be mixed, such that a primary product is fed continuously into the vertical mixer and the flow of the primary product can be regulated in a dosed fashion at the outlet.

12. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 11, wherein comprising:
adjusting the mixing tool ~~can be adjusted~~ at least partly to backward conveyance in an opposite direction to the product flow.

13. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim, 11, wherein comprising:
using the vertical mixer ~~serves~~ as a dosing device.

14. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 12, wherein comprising:
using the vertical mixer ~~serves~~ as a dosing device.

15. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 11, ~~wherein comprising:~~
inserting directly ~~before or~~ after the vertical mixer ~~there is inserted~~ at least
one of an extruder, forage pellet press, an expander, and a batch mixer.

16. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 12, ~~wherein comprising:~~
inserting directly ~~before or~~ after the mixer ~~there is inserted~~ at least one of an
extruder, forage pellet press, an expander and a batch mixer.

17. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 13, ~~wherein comprising:~~
inserting directly ~~before or~~ after the mixer ~~there is inserted~~ an extruder,
forage pellet press, an expander and a batch mixer.

18. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 11, ~~wherein comprising:~~
pressing the product ~~is pressed~~ by means of the mixing tool in a direction of
an inner wall of the housing.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Currently Amended) A device according to claim ~~19~~ 27, wherein the mixing tool is provided with paddles arranged on a hollow shaft, and inside the hollow shaft there is an inner shaft for a rotary slide valve produced at the outlet.

21. A device according to claim 20, wherein the drive is connected to the hollow shaft and to the inner shaft of the rotary slide valve via adjustable gearing or the inner shaft with the rotary slide valve is driven separately.


22. (Currently Amended) A device for driving a vertical mixer comprising:
at least one rotatable mixing tool provided in a housing for building up a
shear field in the product during an operating state;
at least one inlet for a product to be mixed;
at least one outlet for regulating flow of a primary product in a dosed fashion
when continuous product flow is established from the inlet to the outlet using the mixing
tool;

at least one drive for the mixing tool, the mixing tool being arranged on a
shaft and a product discharge device being provided at the outlet; and ~~A device according~~
~~to claim 19 comprising,~~

above an opening of the outlet in a housing floor, an intermediate floor provided with an opening, whereby the intermediate floor blocks off a cross-section of the opening of the outlet to divert the product.

23. A device according to claim 20 comprising, above an opening of the outlet in a housing floor, an intermediate floor provided with an opening, whereby the intermediate floor blocks off a cross-section of the opening of the outlet to divert the product.

24. (Currently Amended) A device according to claim ~~19~~ 27, wherein the vertical mixer has additional points for gaseous, liquid, powdery or pasty additives.

 25. A device according to claim 20, wherein the vertical mixer has additional points for gaseous, liquid, powdery or pasty additives.

26. A method according to claim 11, wherein the method is used to drive at least one of a vapor, liquid, powdery and pasty product.

27. (NEW) A device for driving a vertical mixer comprising:
at least one rotatable mixing tool provided in a housing for building up a shear field in the product during an operating state;
at least one inlet for a product to be mixed;
at least one outlet for regulating flow of a primary product in a dosed fashion when continuous product flow is established from the inlet to the outlet using the mixing tool; and

Attorney's Docket No. 004640-036

Application No. 09/973,811

Page 6

b1 at least one drive for the mixing tool, the mixing tool being arranged on a shaft and a product discharge device being provided at the outlet.
